

Tower Times

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For Front Page Photo

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Tower Times
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Rock Island District
Vol. 21 No. 3
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The deadline for submitting articles for the *Tower Times* is the 7th of the preceding month. Send articles to Toni L. Harn, Public Affairs Office, e-mail at Toni.L.Harn@mvr02.usace.army.mil.

The *Tower Times* is printed on recycled paper.

There are great and innovative things happening here in our District during fiscal year 1999 that will propel us into the new millennium as a bright and shining star aligned for success for the future.

You will notice throughout our offices a new poster entitled, "Rock Island District Strategic Priorities," plus an article in the February *Tower Times* titled, "Targeting the Future" which discusses the Strategic Planning Workshop held and attended by our Executive Steering Committee and other employees.

Working the Issues...

By Col. Jim Mudd

We are aligning ourselves for success with the help of each and every one of you.

Improve Execution Rate

We need to execute our 1999 initial budget of \$117.8 million with an expected windfall of an additional \$4 million coming for ongoing projects. To be successful in receiving additional funds from Division each year, we must execute our budget so that we are spending early in the year and leveling out in August and September with our dollars being spent on salaries. This strategy will position us to be able to ask for more funding from Division for on-going projects rather than being turned down and having to cut projects to meet funding requirements already in place. We are working on, and will have to change, the mechanism that will get us to this eventual goal. I'd love to ask for and get another \$10 million for needed work in the District. Help me get it.

Keep Navigation Study on Schedule

The Navigation Study has been extended out to December 2000. We are now back on track with the help of an influx of an additional \$6 million. We are not coming off this schedule. It is time to execute, execute, execute.

Develop a Military Mission in the District

We are in the process of making a military mission a successful strategy goal. Dan Holmes is our lead man in working on the development of a District military mission. His work on the Arsenal's Department of Public Works (DPW) test is in the final throws of the joint proposal, the financial aspects that ask, will it

save money to go under Corps management or stay with the Island. The big question is when and how big will the transition be. For all involved, it is our hope that DPW will come under our control soon, very soon.

Minimize Product Cost Growth

This is an area where, because we have taken some risk with innovative ideas, we have many success stories demonstrating our goal of spending the extra to make sure our sponsors don't have to. Good examples would be the Muscatine Island Flood Control Project where, due to innovative methods, the cost of the project came in one-half million below the estimate; repairs to Lock 14 came in \$1 million below the estimate; and, look at Chautauqua Refuge, Ill., Environmental Management Project 2nd Stage. Due to an innovative contract we came in on budget and ahead of schedule. The Illinois Fish and Wildlife people are very happy on this one.

Revolutionize Partnering

We have changed the concept of customer/partner relationships by making them a part of our "family." By improving this concept, we are creating customers that work closely with us to make improvements in their community.

(Continued on page 4)

Cover

Bob Wild, Operations Division, performs yearly safety inspections on all cranes in the District. Wild's job focuses on crane safety, training and standards. For more information on the District cranes and inspections see story on page 8.



Photo by Toni L. Harn

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We must continue to make strides in this area to the point where all of us are working together for the good of the finished product.

Implement Customer Interaction Plan

We are working hard at communicating with our customers and partners and will continue to develop our capabilities in this priority. Remember, interaction is a two-way street. We are also customers. Not only do we provide information, we must also become active listeners and do what is needed to satisfy our customers and partners. If we don't, they will begin to look elsewhere.

Ensure Flood Response Preparedness

We are doing innovative things in the emergency response preparedness arena. Terry Stieger, Emergency Management Division, is busy reworking the Emergency Response Plan for Flooding and

getting it approved by higher headquarters. In mid-November we successfully held the annual Command Post Flood Exercise, which was the kick-off of the Annual Levee Inspections. We are now on-line, using the Internet to manage our operations which provides the Emergency Operations Center, our Flood Area Engineers, and higher headquarters with instant access and real-time data.

This District is also responsible for the New Madrid Earthquake Response Plan for the State of Illinois, which the Emergency Management Division has been busily preparing for approval. We also assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency with Planning and Response Teams (PRTs) in emergencies such as hurricanes and floods. We are responsible for the PRT mission of providing ice, throughout the nation, following a natural disaster.

Emphasis is being put on the emergency response business function, or the core part of our job. This emphasis gets you, me, everyone involved and gets us trained so that we are willing and able to respond when called upon. This makes the Corps more

mobile and more of a team when working emergencies. One district cannot handle it all, but working together we can tackle just about anything.

Promote Safety: Reduce Accidents

The Safety and Occupational Health Office reports that in-house accidents and contractor accidents are down in the first two quarters of FY99. This fight isn't over. We have been doing



A top priority for the District is to ensure flood response preparedness. Flood forecasts can now be located on the District Internet web page at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>. Check out the "Spring Flood Forecast."

wonderful things as far as our own workforce is concerned. Contractor safety is another story. In this regard, our Safety Office provides risk management to contractors by reviewing accident prevention plans, partnering, field audits, and awarding Safety incentive awards. They continue to give on-the-spot safety awards for positive reinforcement to contractor employees for safe behavior. All contractors will receive certificates of appreciation for completing each year without a lost-time accident. Everyone, (and my finger is pointing at you), needs to pay attention and find ways to avoid accidents.

My hat is off to all of you for the fine job being done in 1999. Keep working the issues and remember our Strategic Planning goals when tackling our missions.

Essayons (Let us try!).

Spotlight on the District



Photo by Toni L. Harn

**By Andrew Byrne
Public Affairs Office**

The District Commander's Award for October 1998, was presented to Mike Tomlinson, Resource Management Division.

Jim Blanchar, chief of Operations Division, nominated Tomlinson for his efforts in supporting the development of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Business Information

Link, a network-based database system that will enhance O&M business function outputs with financial and other data to provide management information to all levels of the Corps.

"Mike has provided excellent support to the development of the system with his knowledge and assistance in typing the CEFMS financial data into the system," said Blanchar.

"He has provided CEFMS data from our actual databases for testing the

extraction systems and the data processing, cataloguing, and warehousing which have enabled the developers to perform meaningful tests of all modules of the system."

After receiving the District Commander's Award, Mike Tomlinson receives congratulations from fellow employees.

Employee Assistance Program

Services to District

Rock Island Arsenal is now providing a full range of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services to District employees.

Under terms of an installation support agreement signed last month, the Arsenal will provide the District with EAP services in areas such as short-term counseling, referral and follow-up; substance abuse assessment and case management; training and prevention activities; drug testing; and policy development and management consultation.

The agreement opens up the local EAP program, which is operated by Arsenal's Community Counseling Center, to the more than 900 employees who work for the District.

Employees from the Clock Tower will generally visit the Community Counseling Center in Bldg. 110 for assistance, though the center will occasionally send its counselors to the Clock Tower for training

and other activities. Counselors will also make occasional visits to the District's remote sites. In addition, the Community Counseling Center will oversee any contracts for EAP services at the sites.

Prior to the agreement, employees of the Rock Island District received EAP services only on a referral basis through personnel. The District will compensate the Arsenal for EAP services received under the agreement.

Work on the agreement began about a year ago. The effort was spearheaded by Steve Hall, chief of Arsenal's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Corps personnel specialist Gretchen Leigh; and Lori Neumiller of the Community Counseling Center.

"Two major advantages for the District will be the awareness type training that will be available to our personnel, and the Center's counselors will be able to work as advisors to the District supervisors on topics from conflict resolution to sub-

stance abuse," said Leigh.

District personnel will be informed of activities and awareness training that is provided on the Arsenal, stated Leigh.

District employees can contact the Community Counseling Center at 782-2555.

"Having this agreement opens up some new opportunities for us," Neumiller said. "We're excited that this happened, and we look forward to serving our new customers at the Corps."

EAP PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dr. Frank Froman
Psychology Associates
Suite 5, East Maine Plaza
20th and Maine
Quincy, Ill. 62301
Phone: (217) 224-4080 or
(800) 747-4080

Mrs. Betty Hart
4700 N. Prospect Road
Suite A10
Peoria Heights, Ill. 61614
Phone: (309) 685-7060

Dr. Nicholas Tormey
Suite 210, West Bank Building
1601 22nd Street
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
Phone: (515) 225-0932

Dr. Joseph Maciejko
4455 East 56th St.
Davenport, Iowa 52806
Ph: (319) 355-2577 or
383-1768

Dr. Robert Stoner
3077 West Jefferson St., Suite 107
Joliet, Ill
Ph: (815) 744-2326

Why do we offer an EAP?

No one's life is without problems. Experts estimate that at any single time, 10 percent of us are experiencing a serious problem that affects our happiness and well-being, our family life, or our job performance. Any one of us, male or female, rich or poor, may suffer from a variety of problems. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free, confidential service provided to help you and your family address these concerns.

What about confidentiality?

When you talk to an EAP counselor, your discussion is strictly confidential. No information is released to anyone without your written consent. In fact, unless you were referred by your

supervisor, no one will know you used this service.

Cost for the service?

EAP services are a benefit provided to you by the District. There is no cost to you or your family for the first three EAP visits.

What kind of problems?

- *Alcohol and drug abuse
- *Child/adolescent problems
- *Emotional and mental stress
- *Financial or legal issues
- *Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- *Marital and family difficulties
- *Relationship conflicts
- *Problems faced by families of the chemically dependent

The Finishing Touch to a Long Career

Story and photo by Andrew Byrne
Public Affairs Office

His hands have sketched, penciled, painted and created countless pictures for the Rock Island District for more than 22 years. On March 3, Loren Carey, Information Management (IM), drew the final touches on a federal career spanning 30 years.

Carey began working for the District in 1960 as a hydrologic technician, trekking around five states measuring stream flows at different stations. He enjoyed the work and being outdoors, but the almost constant travel forced Carey and his wife, Joyce, to make a career decision.

Carey quit the District and enrolled at Augustana College to finish up the degree he had started a few years earlier. In 1964, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in art, along with a minor in English.

For the next 13 years, Carey worked as an art and English teacher at two Illinois schools. He taught for one year at Illinois State University, and also earned a master's degree there in drawing and painting. He also continued his District career, working every summer as a hydrologic technician,

Finally, in 1976, Carey decided to change jobs one last time. As he explained, two major factors persuaded him to leave the world of teaching for a career with the Corps: 1) money and 2) doing artwork for others, rather than teaching it to students.

Over the years, Carey has put pencil and paintbrush to a wide variety of artwork for the District. He has drawn historical paintings of life along the Mississippi; created illustrations for

brochures and books; painted murals, such as the one in the Engineering Division office; and recently completed a painting showing the functions of the Mississippi River Commission.

A major part of Carey's job has been helping to promote District projects to communities. Traveling to numerous sites and locations of planned flood control structures, he worked closely with the project engineer, reading blueprints to learn the dimensions and location of the project.



By taking photos of the area or visualizing, Carey then created a picture of the finished product.

"I'd draw or do a painting of what the flood wall or levee would look like, in conjunction with the buildings that were

already there. They'd use this at public meetings to make people understand that we weren't just going to have an aesthetically undesirable project," said Carey.

In addition to promoting District work to an external audience, Carey has also promoted the accomplishments of an internal audience. He has drawn numerous retirement caricatures, which he says have also been some of his most challenging artwork as an illustrator.

"I've had some difficulty in doing caricatures, particularly of people I know well and have strong feelings of affection for. When that happens I'll do it again and again," said Carey.

Carey explained that his work in IM has also become easier over the years, especially with the introduction of computers. A major change he's seen since he started working for the District is new innovations such as computer aided design and drafting and other software that enable employees to accomplish tasks much more efficiently.

Finally, Carey reflected upon his own time with the District, including the people he's worked with and the best memories he will be leaving with.

"I think the interaction with the people here is something that I've really enjoyed. The old people are gone, but the new people are good people ... everything changes. I've really been blessed since being in IM. People who've worked in my section have been fine and supportive. I appreciate them very much," Carey said.

The Wild Side of Crane Safety

Story and photos by Barry Shaw
Public Affairs Office

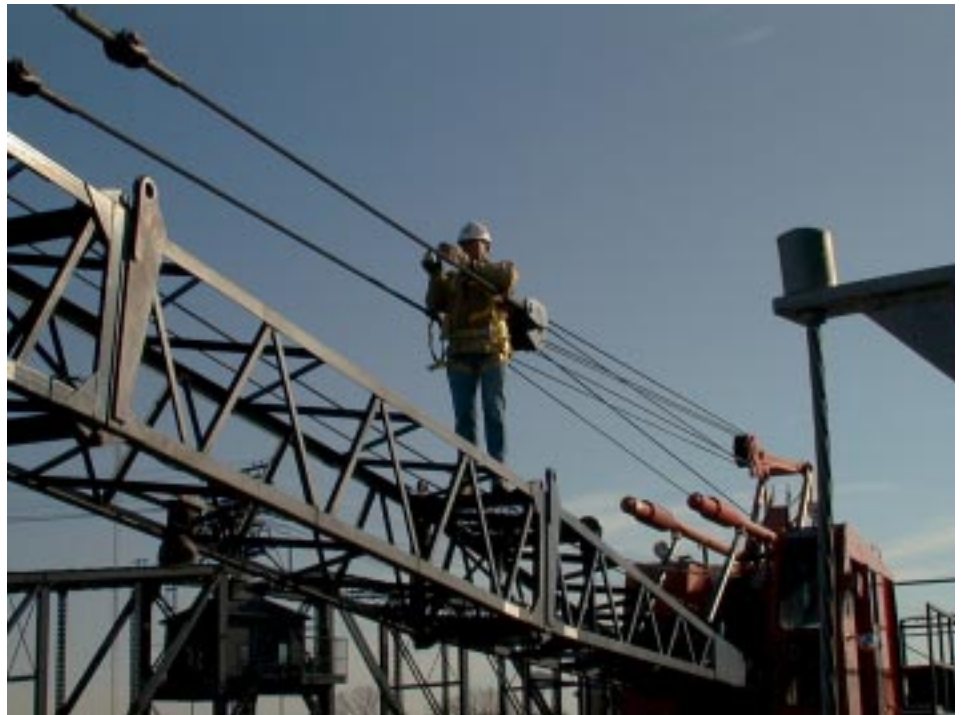
Bob Wild, Operations Division, ensures the District's 64 crane operators can safely lift three to 350 tons with just the push of a lever.

Wild, whose job consists of many duties, is dedicated to crane safety, and is a Certified Crane Safety instructor. He often gives presentations to two to three classrooms per year. In 1998, he taught the lockmasters and lock personnel in the District, and two classrooms in other districts.

Along with teaching, Wild developed a nationwide policy on crane safety and is certified on the investigation of crane related accidents. Although Wild's home District is Rock Island, he is often sent to other districts, such as Memphis, to test load, inspect, and operate their cranes.

All cranes in the District are required to have a full inspection by Wild each year. Crane operators are required to do an inspection each time the crane is used, and even when not being used District cranes require a daily start-up.

"Andy Mueller and Jimmie Thomas, equipment mechanics at the Mississippi



To ensure his safety, Bob Wild, Operations Division, carefully attaches his harness to the wire rope before walking the length of the boom inspecting the welds, bolts, and wire rope.

River Project Office, are also certified to do crane inspections. One of them usually makes the inspection trip with me so that we can double check our safety inspec-

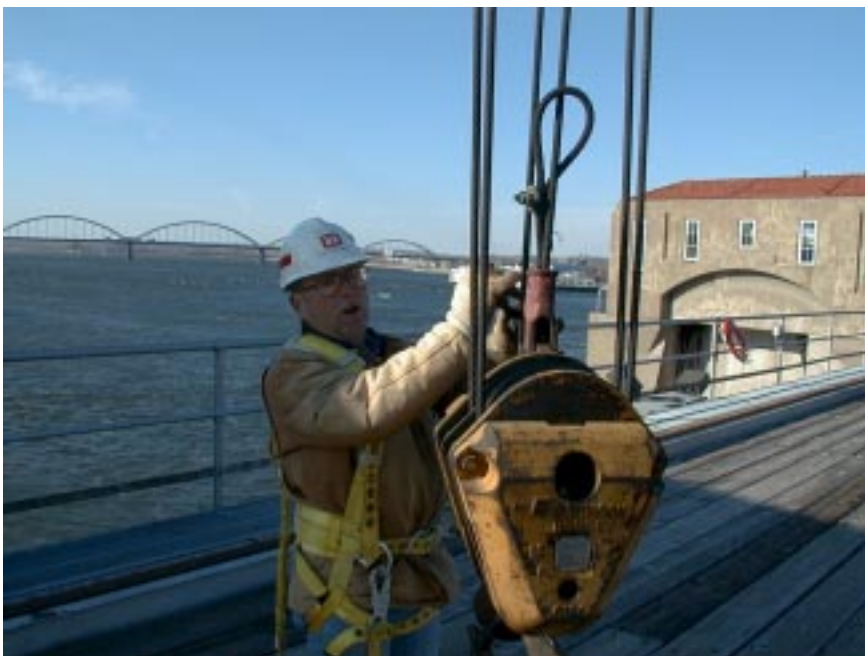
tion," said Wild.

Recently, Wild went up on top of Dam 15 to give the crane its yearly inspection and test load.

The annual inspection checklist includes many tests. First, Wild raises and lowers the boom of the crane to test the inclinometer — the gauge that tells the operator the angle of the boom relative to the horizon. Next, he swings the crane to the left and to the right to make sure it swivels smoothly and operates properly.

Wild goes through a complex inspection of the Detroit diesel motor housed within the crane's body — checking the fluid levels in the motor and hydraulics system. He also checks the wire rope wound on the drum and the back-boom hoist for proper operation.

Next, he moves to the outside of the crane. Wild lowers the boom to about 20 feet off the ground and climbs up onto the boom. Carefully attaching his harness to the wire rope for safety, he walks the entire length of the boom inspecting the welds, bolts, and wire rope. Once he reaches the end, he leans over to inspect



Wild inspects the block and tackle while explaining how the safety loop works.

the pulleys. After he finishes inspecting the boom, he moves on to the block, tackle, and hooks at the end of the wire rope. Last, but not least, he checks the condition of the wheels and flanges. The wheels are slightly damaged, with dings and dents, but the flanges appear to be in good shape.

The crane, clearly visible from the Government Bridge, sits on a special double rail, which extends across the entire length of the dam. This crane is a 30-ton FMC Link Belt. It is certified to lift 10 tons and its uses include lifting machinery, rescuing runaway boaters, and removing debris lodged in the dam's rollers.

This crane is the only one of its kind in the District. It doesn't have a bulkhead hoist attached to the bottom like the others. Dam 15's bulkhead hoist is on a separate set of tracks located within the steel structure of the dam. The other 10 locomotive bridge cranes in the District have their bulkhead hoist attached to the bottom, which is used as a counterweight and stabilizes the crane, when in use. Since the crane on Dam 15 does not have an attached bulkhead hoist, the crane has rail-grabbers that hold it in place.

During Wild's 20 years with the District, he has only encountered a few scary experiences.

"I had too much weight at the wrong angle, and I lifted one track high enough that a tall person could walk underneath it," said Wild.

Another odd situation that Wild experienced was when he opened the cab door to inspect a crane. When he opened



The 30-ton FMC Link Belt crane is perched atop Dam 15 in Rock Island, Ill.

the cab door, a six-foot water snake was staring him in the face -- coiled up and ready to strike.

"Jimmie Thomas was with me at the time, and we had to quickly rig a snare by using PVC pipe and rope in order to catch the snake and this one was not small," said Wild.

When you see Wild walking around the building wearing a full harness, hard hat, and his snake catching gloves, he is on his way to perform another safety inspection. The District's many cranes include locomotive bridge cranes, truck cranes, track cranes, and crawler cranes.



"Quad Cities" Lift Barge

A few interesting facts about the largest crane the District uses. The "Quad Cities" is a 350-ton fully revolving machine capable of rotating while lifting 200 tons. It was designed to lift lock and dam gates in the Rock Island, St. Paul, and St. Louis Districts. It has approximately 1 1/2 miles of cable on the crane. The generator set has 275 kilowatts of power, enough to power 100 homes. Its fuel capacity is 20,000 gallons -- 3 tanker trucks or enough fuel to drive a car around the circumference of the earth 32 times. The outside dimensions are 270 feet by 68 feet, 10 yards short of a football field. The boom and jib height is 190 feet above water. This is approximately the height of a 19-story building. It can lift 350 tons or about 250 mid-size automobiles. Its two ballast pumps could fill an average backyard swimming pool in 10 minutes.



Shaping the Corps Cornerstone -- Student Aides

Story and photo by Barry Shaw
Public Affairs Office

When serious incidents occur on the river, Brian McMillen from Lock and Dam 22 is a good person to have available. McMillen is a student aide who is a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a teacher at a correctional center, and a full-time college student.

This may seem like a lot of hard work, but not to McMillen. He received his bachelor's of science degree in history from the Hannibal-LaGrange College in May 1998. He is currently working on an undergraduate degree in biology/pre-medical at Hannibal-LaGrange and plans on enrolling in medical school upon graduation.

McMillen is a certified EMT in Missouri. During the time he has worked at Lock and Dam 22, his EMT training has been helpful at two incidents. One incident occurred when a worker on a barge was having a heart attack.

"I rushed to the scene with the oxygen tanks and a non-rebreather mask the lock had on hand. The patient was conscious. I took a set of vitals and found the man's blood pressure to be high, his respiration rate was slow, his breath was shallow and labored, along with a thready pulse. I took the proper steps to keep the patient in a stable condition until the Emergency Medical Service arrived," said McMillen.

In addition to going to school and being an EMT, McMillen received his teaching license from the Missouri Department of Education in Moberly, Mo. He teaches adult basic education to inmates of the Northeastern Correctional Center, a level-four maximum-security prison in Bowling Green, Mo. All of McMillen's students who have taken the General Equivalency Degree test, which is



Brian McMillen, student aide at Lock and Dam 22, is responsible for a variety of duties including snow removal on the property surrounding the Lock and Dam site.

the equivalent of a high school diploma, have passed.

"It's amazing, I have had inmates in my class that don't have a high school education, but I have also taught inmates who have master's degrees and a doctorate," said McMillen. "I have never had a problem with an inmate, and I have taught people who are in prison for life due to first-degree murder."

McMillen began working for the District in March 1997. He is responsible for many duties at Lock and Dam 22. Not only does he file and help out with paperwork, but he is in charge of lawn care, snow removal, general maintenance, and is a signalman for crane operations. He also assists fellow employees with replacing gate timbers and painting the guide cell and bullnoses. McMillen enjoys assisting Mike Nickson, the mechanic for the lock.

"I try to help Mike as much as I can,

but I like to watch and learn what he is doing," said McMillen.

"Being part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been very beneficial to me as an employee and rewarding as a person. It has been beneficial because it has given me the opportunity to develop and strengthen job skills that I might not have attained otherwise. Working with the Corps has been rewarding to me in that I get to spend a great deal of my time working outdoors and on the river," said McMillen.

By Dean Magee
Safety and Occupational Health Office

With the potential for heavy spring rains just right around the corner, flood season is upon us. Whether you are near rivers, lakes, or just low-lying flatland with occasional water in the basement, here are some tips that may be helpful to you or someone you know.

Flooding not only causes considerable damage, but also creates conditions leading to disease and injury. There are many safety and health hazards associated with flooding and flood cleanup that are often underestimated and/or overlooked

Floods: Safety and Health Issues

by those involved.

Do not walk through flowing water — drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most of these drownings occur during flash floods; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to make sure the ground is still there before you go through an area where water is flowing.

More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. People are asked not to drive through a flooded area or around barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and

electrical wires because electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electric current can travel through water instantly. You should always report power lines that are down to your utility company or call 911.

If your home has had floodwaters in it, turn off your electricity when you return home. Appliances, such as televisions, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.

Always watch for animals, especially snakes, in areas covered by flood waters. Small animals that have been flooded from their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

When you return to your property, look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

You should be alert for gas leaks and use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke, use lanterns, candles, or open flames unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been aired out.

Remember that carbon monoxide exhaust kills. Generators or other petroleum-product-powered machines, such as

a gasoline-powered sump pump, should be used outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves; fumes from charcoal are especially deadly.

Any of your possessions that were under floodwaters should be cleaned.



Floodwaters pick up sewage, bacteria, and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Exposed food, cosmetics and medicines are also health hazards. If you are in doubt, throw them out.

Boil your drinking water before using. Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health authority.

Everyone needs to pay special attention to lifting procedures to avoid back injuries. Cleanup workers are at risk for developing serious musculoskeletal injuries to hands, back, knees, and shoulders. Furniture and other household contents, when saturated with water, can weigh five times their original weight. You should use teams of two or more to move bulky, heavy objects.

To find out if you live in a flood-prone area, call your local emergency management office or Red Cross chapter. Ask if your property is above or below the flood stage water level. Also ask about the history of flooding for your area. It is also a good idea to learn about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Most homeowner's insurance policies do not offer protection against flood losses. For more information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent, or call NFIP at (800) 638-6620.

This article is the beginning of a series of articles to appear in the *Tower Times* concerning Leadership. These excerpts are reprinted from the following article:

Colin Powell: A Leadership Primer

by Oren Harari

Eighteen lessons from the estimable general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Lesson One

“Being responsible sometimes means infuriating people.”*

Gen. Colin Powell

“My American Journey”

“...I'd like to share with you a compendium of advice from the general. With the exception of the occasional paraphrase to keep grammatical consistency (which will be noted), I present Powell's words verbatim in bold — 18 priceless lessons, to be exact. After each quotation from General Powell, I attach my own civilian commentary which I hope you will find useful.”

Oren Harari

Good leadership involves responsibility to the welfare of the group, which means that some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. It's inevitable if you're honorable. Trying to get everyone to like you is a sign of mediocrity: You'll avoid the tough decisions, you'll avoid confronting the people who need to be confronted, and you'll avoid offering differential rewards based on differential performance because some people might get upset. Ironically, by procrastinating on the difficult choices, by trying not to get anyone mad, and by treating everyone equally “nicely”

regardless of their contributions, you'll simply ensure that the only people you'll wind up angering are the most creative and productive people in the organization.

**In order to not offend our readers, the editor has changed the quote. The exact quote may be found in “My American Journey” by Colin Powell.*

Oren Harari

Leading Management Consultant

Co-Author “Jumping the Curve”

Columnist “AMA's Management Review”

Oren Harari is the co-author of the acclaimed business book, “Jumping the Curve: Innovation and Strategic Choice in an Age of Transition”, and a leading management consultant who brings over 15 years of seasoned professional experience to the public speaking forum.

During his 12-year affiliation as a senior consultant with The Tom Peters Group, Harari was one of its most requested speakers. He is also a columnist for Management Review, and his work has been featured in numerous publications, including Harvard

Business Review and Small Business Reports. Harari's presentations incorporate cutting-edge material on extraordinary strategy, turnarounds, customer service, innovation, and leadership.

Bringing a lively sense of humor, depth, and versatility to each presentation, Harari has earned a reputation as one of America's most effective keynote speakers on current management issues.

District Clock Tower Building Becomes Focus as

Quad-City Students Design and Build a Community

By Toni L. Harn
Public Affairs Office

The Clock Tower Building is the central focal point of a model community constructed by Bob Martin's third grade class at St. Paul's Elementary School in Davenport.

Brian Skalak, eight-year-old son of Jerry Skalak, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, created a replica of the Clock Tower Building by using two cardboard boxes for the main structure and tower. To create the wallpaper used on the outside shell of the building, Brian, with the help of dad, found photos of the Clock Tower, enlarged

them and pasted the newly created wallpaper on the outside of the boxes. This effect also created trees and shrubbery around the building. Brian used the same procedure to create the tower and the face of the clock. The roof is made of duct tape.

Bob Martin, Brian's teacher, selected the Clock Tower Building as the center of the community. All students were required to create their home, plus two other buildings for the community. Brian's other building of choice besides his home was a Taco Bell.

Brian completed his project with a presentation about the Clock Tower Building.



Photo by Jerry Skalak

Third grader Brian Skalak, son of Jerry Skalak, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, built a replica of the Clock Tower Building from cardboard boxes, duct tape and home produced wallpaper. Skalak's creation was selected by his teacher to be the center of the community built by his classmates.

Area Students Shadow District Employees

By Andrew Byrne
Public Affairs Office

District employees shared their work experiences and enlightened Quad City students on Corps' professions during Groundhog Job Shadow Day, Feb. 2.

The District Public Affairs Office initiated the event within the District, soliciting and coordinating the District volunteers and scheduling the day's itinerary in conjunction with Junior Achievement, the city-wide sponsor.

Students and District employees were matched depending upon the student's projected career pathway. Areas of interest included business, science, engineering, humanities, health, and agriculture.

Sixteen employees from Construction Division to the Safety Office provided up-close, real-life job perspectives to 28 eighth-grade students from Illinois and Iowa.



Sue Clevens, Operations Division, explains an exhibit at the Mississippi River Visitors Center to (L-R) Craig Petersen, Williams Intermediate School, and Dave Carstens, North Scott Junior High School. The students toured the center as part of Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

During their visit, the students participated in diverse activities, including learning about crane operations, boiler-plant safety, computer-aided drafting and design, and other numerous duties District employees perform. Some of the students toured the Mississippi River Visitor Center and learned how a lock and dam functions.

Students were tasked to review their resumes with their hosts; discuss their learning objectives for Job Shadow Day; and interview their hosts to help link class work with the host's job responsibilities.

The students spent about an hour learning about Corps' professions, and then took a break for lunch, pizza and pop, with their hosts. After lunch, students were given an overview of District job opportunities for student aides, co-op students, and permanent job openings.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day, celebrated nationwide, gave the District the opportunity to participate in the community by helping students understand both the importance of education and having future goals, according to Justine Dodge, Public Affairs Office.



Sixteen employees from the District Clock Tower Building provided up-close, real-life job perspectives to 28 eighth-grade students from Illinois and Iowa. See page 19 for a list of participants in Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Ever since I became a citizen of this country, I have been quite impressed with the dedication with which most Americans do their daily work and how that is reflected upon the performance of our mission at the Corps. Many of you know of our satellite data collection system that provides real time data on the web. There are many other river-stage gages we employ to accomplish our water control management program. These gages don't have an expensive telemetry system but a person that reads the gage daily, come rain or shine. In fact, this was the only way we collected our stage information in the good-old days. Often times the same gage reader lasted for decades and handed down the job to the next generation. Sometime ago, Bryan Goodrum of our Branch who has been the gage reader coordinator for many years, received a letter from one such gage reader on the eve of his resignation. I think you will enjoy his letter and appreciate the trials and tribulations of our gage readers.

S.K. Nanda, chief, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch

Gage Readers: Unsung Heroes

Dear Brian,

Talked to you on the phone a couple days ago about the water gage job here on Henderson Creek. With those two gages in the little house, the job was easy and we could read the cable gage on nice days once in a while to check if the readings were the same. With the little house gages gone, it's a real problem for us.

I've had to read the cable gage, as Lois is only 4 feet 10 inches tall. No way she could reach that gage to read it. The problem with me is at 6 feet tall I can barely reach the gage to crank it up and down, and if my feet would slip as I lean over that "new-bridge" side I would land on my head in the creek. We are in our middle 70's now, retired on Social Security so the gage check really came in handy to buy groceries once in a while. I want to give you a little history on the gage readers.

The gage was installed in 1934 or 1935. Harold Dobson, a high school boy, lived just three-fourths of a mile north and west of the creek. He read the gage for a year or so then they moved away, so my brothers Haines and Tom McIntyre read the gage. We lived three-fourths of a mile north of the creek on the east side of the road (there isn't any house there on the hill now. It burnt down after my folks moved and was never rebuilt.) But that's where I (Wendell McIntyre) grew up.

So after my older brothers got other

interests I read the gage but I had got an old bicycle to ride over to the creek to read it. But the gage was up on the side of the old bridge so it was easy to read and had a "brake" on the cable wheel that

were when they read the gage on Henderson creek. My brothers Tom and Haines also bought new (two) bicycles when they read the gage back in the 1930s.

Since this highway has been rebuilt we get 50 trucks now where we used to have only one. Just see yourself 75 years old bent over the bridge rail cranking down or up the cable gage and two semi's meet in the bridge right beside you-- one going 75 miles an hour getting a run for the big hill and the other coming down the hill 90 miles an hour because the hill is six-tenths of a mile long. Yes, even the new bridge trembles under your feet and your cap blows off in the creek and floats away and you're too scared to talk and shake for an hour.

I wanted to give you a brief history of the gage job. I seen this road built in 1930 to 1933 the bridge I saw built where the first

gage hung in 1934 or 1935. This road and gage has been a big part of my life and with tears in my eyes I want to tell you we are going to give up the gage job since it is no longer in the little house and the cable gage and traffic of trucks makes it too dangerous for old people. Thanks for the many years we held the job. It's bought lots of bikes and groceries and brought lots of happiness to our family.

Been very nice working with you folks for most of my life.

Sincerely with love,

Wendell McIntyre



Henderson Creek, looking downstream from the bridge where the gage is located.

wouldn't let it go down too fast. My folks lived there on a rented farm so when I was in high school we moved away. So a neighbor a half-mile north of us, May Cooper, took over the gage job. She had it for a few years and I had gotten married and had two boys here at home when we were contacted for the job again. May Cooper got killed so they needed a new gage reader. So the job was put in Lois' name and my boys read the gage for her and they both got new bicycles from the gage checks so they were very happy to have the job and Lois made out the reports and sent them in. Course the boys have long since grown up and have homes of their own and have boys as old as they

Congressional Resolution Designating the Month of March "Women's History Month"

Whereas American women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

Whereas American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

Whereas American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

Whereas American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

Whereas American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American History;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that March is designated as "Women's History Month." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation for each of these months, calling upon the people of the United States to observe those months with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

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A Brief History ...

Women in Engineering

From the Age of Enlightenment to today, women have helped advance the fields of engineering and science. Hypatia was one of the first women scientists recorded in history, but like most women of science, she was not accepted by the population at large.

In the United States by 1893, only one woman had been awarded an engineering degree. Many women did engineering work prior to 1893, but most did not have college degrees. Emily Warren Roebling was a master bridge builder who helped in the building and making a reality of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883. She learned to be a master bridge builder because of adversity and economic necessity. First, her father-in-law became incapacitated, and then her husband became paralyzed and non-communicative to anyone but her due to disease. Both were the master builders of record yet she did the day-to-day supervision of the bridge.

The firsts for American women in engineering started in 1884. Kate Gleason was the first woman to study engineering in the

U.S. She entered Cornell in 1884. Elmina Wilson was the first woman to receive an engineering degree in 1892 according to Iowa State College, but according to the University of California, Elizabeth Bragg was first in 1876.

Progress was slow between 1953 and 1973. Women became a greater part of the work force during this time. The Civil Rights and women's movement and federal legislation for affirmative action started a push for women to achieve a college education and even to pursue degrees in non-traditional fields such as engineering.

From 1973 to today, women in engineering are continuing to build upon the accomplishments of their "technical grandmother". The engineering student population of women in the United States has reached a plateau at around 16%. Less than 10% of the working engineering population are women.

Safety Slogan Sticker Contest

By Jeff Cochran,
Safety and Occupational Health Office
and Andrew Byrne, Public Affairs
Office

Your artistic talent and safety savvy can win you a ball cap and recognition both on our web site and District wide.

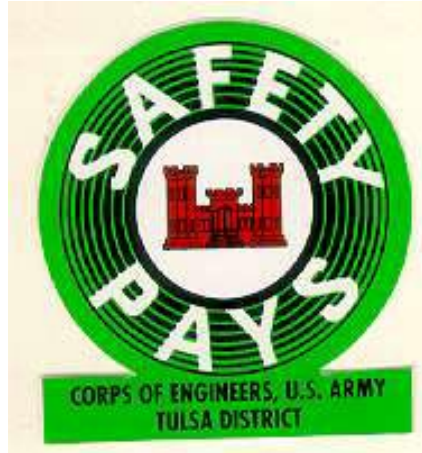
The Safety Committee is looking for a new Safety Slogan to be used on stickers



and the Safety & Occupational Health home page. You can submit either a slogan or a design for a sticker with a new slogan. The employee who submits the winning entry will receive a Safety Award, a white and red baseball hat with the District logo.

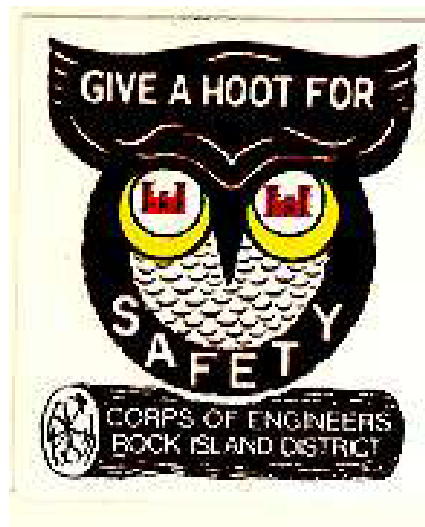
All suggestions should be submitted by March 31 to the Safety Office in the annex. Slogans can also be e-mailed to the safety officer, Jeff.K.Cochran@mvr02.usace.army.mil. The contest is only open to all Corps' employees. The Safety Committee will select the winning entry and announce the winner during April.

The new sticker will be approximately 2 ½ by 2 ½, and the slogan/sticker on the home page will be approximately three by four inches.



The purpose of the web page is to increase safety awareness to internal and external customers.

The current safety slogan can be seen at the Safety and Occupational Health home page at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/SafetyOffice/SafetyOfficeHomePage.htm.



“Women’s History Month” Lunch-and- Learn

Judge Rosemary Shaw
Sackett
Iowa Court of Appeals

Tuesday, March 23
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Annex Conference Rooms
A, B, C

Her topics will include the struggle for women to balance career and home life, and how she achieved both.

Judge Rosemary Shaw Sackett

Judge Rosemary Shaw Sackett was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1983. She was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She earned her bachelor's degree from Buena Vista College. Graduating cum laude in 1960, she then went to Drake University Law School and earned her law degree in 1963. She received her L.L.M. from the University of Virginia in 1990. She practiced law in Pocahontas and Spencer, Iowa for nearly 20 years. She has been a member of the Iowa Commission on Alcoholism, Supreme Court Juvenile Advisory Rules Committee, and Spencer Low Rent Housing Commission. Judge Sackett is a member of the Clay County, Dickinson County, Judicial District 3A, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association and American Association of Univeristy Women.

Sackett is married and has five children. They reside in Okoboji, Iowa.

"Investing in People" across the Upper Mississippi River

Speakers Bureau

By Justine Dodge
Public Affairs Office

In addition to the 16 District employees who participated in the Junior Achievement's Groundhog Job Shadow Day program on Feb. 2, **Greg Weist**, from Information Management, hosted a job shadow student from Bettendorf High School in Davenport, Iowa, on Feb. 3. The student shadowed Weist to learn more about computer programming.

Heather Wiese and **Ron Binzley**, both from Engineering Division, spoke with more than 20 science students at Central High School in Davenport, Iowa. They shared information with the students about career opportunities in engineering and discussed the SAME mentoring program. Wiese also discussed the mentoring program with guidance counselors at North High School in Davenport, Iowa, on Feb. 2.

On Feb. 11, **John Betker** spoke to fifteen members of the Davenport Chamber of Commerce about the mitigation banking of wetlands. He spoke with the group at the Iowa Machine Shed restaurant in Davenport, Iowa. Betker is a member of the Regulatory Division.

"Transportation on the River" was **Ernie Jackson's** topic when he spoke to more than 28 eleventh-grade students at United Township High School in East Moline, Ill., on Feb. 19. Jackson works at Lock and Dam 13.

Jim Blanchar spoke with more than 60 members of the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee on Feb. 19 in Iowa City, Iowa. He spoke with the group about locking procedures, tonnage amounts locked through on the Mississippi River and the types of cargo shipped on the river. Blanchar is a member of the Operations Division.

Retiree News

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Condolences to **Charles D. Hood Sr.** for the loss of his wife on Feb. 11, 1999. Hood is a District retiree who was in charge of the levee crews that maintained and repaired the levees down around the Beardstown area. His son, **Charles D. Hood Jr.** is assistant lockmaster at the LaGrange Lock and Dam.

Retiree **Earnest L. Byrd** recently moved from Ankeny, Iowa to Waterloo, Iowa.

Congratulations to **Bob and Julianna Castro**, Engineering Division, on the birth of a new son Feb. 12. Master Castro was named Lucas Robert. He weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches.

Tom Lisco began a 120-day developmental assignment as the chief, Information Management Office on Feb. 14.

Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, **Dudley Hanson**, announced the following:

Denny Lundberg has completed his 120-day assignment as chief, Project Management Branch.

Ken Barr has completed his 120-day assignment as chief, Environmental Analysis Branch.

Paul Soyke started his 120-day assignment as chief, Project Management Branch.

Dorie Bollman started her 120-day assignment as chief, Environmental Analysis Branch.

Mark Hoague, Engineering Division, and **Karin Ciaccio**, Real Estate, attended the Iowa State spring Engineering Job Expo in Ames, Iowa. About 2,000 engineering students participated in the Expo. Hoague and Ciaccio were able to explain the District's mission and projects to many civil, mechanical and electrical engineering students. The District's co-op program was described and resumes accepted from students considering co-op employment at the District in the near future.

Office of Personnel Management has announced an open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance. It will be held April 24 to June 30, 1999. Information regarding the open season will be sent out to all employees in the near future.

Gayla Pacheco began her new duties as Equal Employment Office (EEO) specialist on Feb. 1. Pacheco previously worked for the District and was the Hispanic employment Program Manager. Pacheco accepted a Department of the Army EEO internship and comes back to us directly from that internship. She will be responsible for the Special Emphasis Programs and will be the District's Consideration of Others facilitator.

Rick Stebens is now acting chief, Contract Administration Branch, and **Steve Frank** will begin serving as acting chief, Quality Assurance Branch.

On Feb. 11, **Bill Riebe**, chief of Survey Branch, spoke at the annual conference of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association. His presentation, entitled "Railroad Surveying," presented a broad view of railroad surveying including rights-of-way, layout of line improvements, collection of hydraulic data regarding railroad structures in the flood plain, and as-built surveys of railroad physical plants. He spoke from a perspective of 39 years experience as a surveyor for the Corps, with involvement in several railroad relocations, and as a life long railroad buff. There were over 200 surveyors, engineers and other persons from related disciplines in attendance.

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The **Office of Counsel** received the combined Federal Campaign (CFC) traveling plaque to display in their office. The Office of Counsel had 100 percent participation in CFC for the 1998 campaign.

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Groundhog Job Shadow Day participants:

Joe Kellet, Construction Division
Erin Ross, Williams Intermediate School
Stephanie Martin, North Scott Junior HS

Perry Hubert, Engineering Division
Katherine Neff, Wilson Middle School
Erin Strathdee, John Deere Middle School

Dudley Hanson, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
Richie Shackelford, Silvis Junior HS
Kamber Maere, Wilson Middle School

Ron Deiss, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
Ann Nemeth-Wild, Black Hawk Junior HS
Maggi Knapper, North Scott Junior HS

Jim Aidala, Operations Division
Adam Black, John Deere Middle School
Clayton Cummings, Williams Intermediate School

Rebecca Holzgrafe, Program Analyst
Bill Murray, North Scott Junior HS

Capt. Tom Heinold, Engineering Division
Cory Blanchard, Williams Intermediate School
Michael Perez, Silvis Junior HS

Justine Dodge, Public Affairs Office
Sara Frahs, Black Hawk Junior HS
Carol Blade, Wilson Middle School

Tony Zemo, Regulatory Division
Stephanie Whitten, Wilson Middle School
Jenny Christian, Williams Intermediate School

Jay Richter, Operations Division
Dan Verzaal, John Deere Middle School

Bob Wild, Operations Division
Andy Ridgway, J.B. Young Intermediate School

Carol Arney, Information Management Division
Eric Pohlmann, North Scott Junior HS
Sergio Ortiz, Silvis Junior HS

Lanny Biehler, Operations Division
Bryan Fix, Williams Intermediate School

Jeff Cochran, Safety Office
Jackie Graf, Seton Catholic School Junior High
Jessie Clark, North Scott Junior HS

Karolyn Bebensee, Information Management Division
Casey Lavkaitis, Silvis Junior HS
Louis Rich, Sudlow Intermediate School

Sue Clevenstine, Operations Division
Dave Carstens, North Scott Junior HS
Craig Petersen, Williams Intermediate School.

* * * *



Photo by Toni L. Harn

Remodeling on the first floor and in the basement areas is proceeding at a rapid pace. Old walls have been removed, framing completed for new walls, plus electrical and sheet metal work is being done.

"Investing in People" across the Upper Mississippi River



District Duffers Hit Links for “The Chili Open”

By Loren Carey
Information Management

Eight sturdy District winter golfers reported to Davenport’s Credit Island Golf Course on Saturday morning, Feb. 6 for another chapter of “The Chili Open.”

Sponsored by the Davenport Park Board and Wendy’s, “The Chili Open” is held every winter to encourage golfing in adverse conditions and to gather food for Quad-Cities food pantries.

This year, the District had two foursomes of hardy hitters from the Clock Tower. Tee time for the first foursome was at 8:45 a.m. The team consisted of Dan Johnson and John Copeland, both from Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Jeff Cochran, Safety and Occupational Health Office, and Tom Fratzke, Construction Division. The second foursome included Patty Dice and Earl Wood, both from the Real Estate Division, and John Gall and Scott Pettis,

both from the Engineering Division. Their tee time was later that morning.

The weather was nice for a February morning. The anticipated parkas, boots, and stocking caps were replaced by sweatshirts, jackets, shoes, and summer golf hats. Most of the snow was melted and people were able to play, although the putting was bumpy, nearly “normalized” golf. The north course was played by both foursomes, and everybody had a real fun time. Wood and Copeland both garnered “closest to the pin” honors for their respective groups. No report on whether these zingers held up to the test of later golfers.

The first foursome had good scores with two 35’s and two 36’s, but those guys have been known to fabricate stories in the past, so no great stock should be put in this report. The second foursome had a 38, a 41, a 42, and a slick 46. These seem more believable.

Everyone brought a can of food for the food pantries, and for their modest greens fee, they received a sleeve of balls, a hat, a towel, and a bag of tees. After finishing the nine-hole round, the golfers all sat around and ate a bowl of chili, had something to drink, and swapped stories about how good they were on the course. A fine time was had by all and everyone agreed they would like to do it again.

Editor’s Note: *According to Loren Carey, the writer of the article, he “was to play but wimped out due to back problems, and Copeland filled in admirably.” Loren, we hope that next year as a retiree, you’ll be able to play.*

Photo at top: John Copeland marks his position for the “closest to the pin” shot during the tournament. (Photo furnished by John Copeland.)